

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

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NEA - MR. SOBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 050482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, PK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YAQUB'S CALL ON SECRETARY

1. DURING AMBASSADOR YAQUB'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY MARCH 12, QUESTIONS OF FUNDING FOR TANK RETROFIT AND STATUS OF FLOOD DISASTER AUTHORIZATION FOR PAKISTAN WERE DISCUSSED.

2. TANK RETROFIT QUESTION DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S INDICATION THAT WHILE WE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO PAKISTAN'S PROBLEMS IN MILITARY SUPPLY WE NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED TO HAVE SEVERE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM ON THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR YAQUB SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US HAD NO POLICY OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE EXISTING SET-UP IN IRAN TO RETROFIT PAKISTANI TANKS AND THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ONE OF FINDING RESOURCES FOR ESTIMATED DOLS 30-40 MILLION COST. YAQUB NOTED ALSO THAT AMBASSADOR BYROADE HAD CONVEYED TO AZIZ AHMED AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO THE POSITION THAT WE HAD NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE. SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE WHAT WAS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE IN

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THIS REGARD.

3. AMBASSADOR YAQUB RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF DISASTER RELIEF FOR PAKISTAN NOTING HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT HAMILTON SUB-COMMITTEE HAD CUT AMOUNT FROM DOLS 85 MILLION TO 50 MILLION.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOP HAD BEEN AWARE THAT DOLS 85 MILLION FIGURE WAS TENTATIVE PENDING FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, NEVERTHELESS PLANNERS HAD BASED SOME OF THEIR PROJECTIONS ON THIS FIGURE AND THAT SEVERE CUT WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. YAQUB ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD BE DONE TO RESTORE FUNDS IN CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS. SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE CUT AND INDICATED HE WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF URGING RESTORATION EITHER IN THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE. KISSINGER

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